

Moran Praises Abengoa Bioenergy for Decision to Build First U.S.-Based Cellulosic Ethanol Plant in Hugoton

HUGOTON - Congressman Jerry Moran today praised Abengoa Bioenergy for its decision to build a \$300 million ethanol production plant in Hugoton. Abengoa's facility will be the first industrial-sized cellulosic ethanol plant, producing 30 million gallons, in the United States and will also include an 85 million gallon traditional ethanol plant.

"As our country focuses more and more on renewable fuels like ethanol, Kansas has the potential to be a major supplier and benefit from the economic activity associated with ethanol production," Moran said. "This is wonderful news for the community of Hugoton and is especially important in seeing that our rural communities can continue to thrive."

In March, the Department of Energy announced that Abengoa Bioenergy was selected for a \$76 million grant to build a cellulosic ethanol plant in Kansas. Cellulosic ethanol is an alternative fuel made from a wide variety of non-starch based plant materials. These materials include perennial grasses and annual crop residues, such as corn stover, sorghum stover and wheat straw. Abengoa's Kansas plant was one of six projects selected nationwide by the Department of Energy to create and develop the cellulosic ethanol industry.

Abengoa officials will join community and state leaders in an event in Hugoton on August 23 to make the formal announcement.

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